



# Parishes of Mater Dei Blakehurst & St Raphael's South Hurstville

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in  
Ordinary time Year A

Bulletin

15th Oct 2023

## **Entrance Antiphon :** Psalm 129:3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

## **First Reading:** Isaiah 25:6-10

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22. R. v.6

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

## **Second Reading:** Philippians 4:12-14.

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

## **Gospel Acclamation** Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

## **Gospel :** Matthew 22:1-14

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

## **Communion Antiphon:**

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was very important – it reflected your own status. To share table with people who were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of their lifestyle or illness was seen to lessen the status of other participants. Sharing table was as much a political action as it was a social one. This week's gospel is an important one for understanding Jesus' message of an inclusive kingdom. The king invites all the 'right' people to attend his son's wedding banquet but they shame him by refusing his invitation and murdering his messengers. This would have been an extraordinary action in Jesus' time. An invitation to the table of your social superior would not be rejected lightly. To try to save face and regain some honour, the king sends his servants to bring in people off the street – the poorest and least socially acceptable people. The invitation to the people off the street, 'bad and good alike', is a reflection of Jesus' own attitude to sharing table. Jesus ate with those who were regarded as unworthy: tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It was one of the harshest criticisms of Jesus made by the Pharisees and Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest messages was about the inclusive nature of the kingdom and he lived it day to day. His inclusive table fellowship was a powerful statement about the fact that the kingdom is an invitation to all – rich and poor alike, regardless of status in this world. This parable highlights the invitation to join in the kingdom of God that has been rejected by the Jewish leaders but taken up by the 'lesser' people of society. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

### **Historical Context**

This gospel parable is a reflection of the way in which the message of God has been extended to people through time. The first invitation was extended to the Israelites who initially accepted the message of God but in time lost the focus. Jesus further extended the invitation to the Gentiles, viewed by the Jews as unworthy of such a relationship with God. Finally, within the early Christian communities there were some who, despite belonging to the community, failed to live appropriately and demonstrate their acceptance of the message of God.

### **Have you thought? – Inclusivity**

This gospel parable reflects the inclusive way in which Jesus lived his life. In many ways, Jesus was a scandal in his society because he didn't obey the social boundaries. He was very clear in being inclusive and attentive to those who were normally shunned. Today, those boundaries are just as clear and easily identified but the methods of excluding people have perhaps become a bit more subtle. Who are the 'shunned' and 'left out' in our society today? Where do the boundaries lie? Who would Jesus be reaching out to and seeking to include in today's society?

### **Gospel Focus – 'How did you get in here?'**

In light of the inclusive kingdom metaphor in this passage, the final portion of the gospel may be a bit troubling to readers. When a guest is not wearing a wedding garment he is cast out of the banquet. We might say that being invited at the last minute the guest was unable to find suitable clothing. It is a sign that although he has been an unlikely inclusion in the banquet, he has not made any effort to respond to the generosity of the king and take up one of the cloaks that would have been provided and thus give due honour to his host. This is symbolic of those who refuse to change their ways and do not live as followers of Jesus even when they have been included in the kingdom.

UNITED IN FAITH, GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, COMMITTED TO  
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WE STRIVE TO LIVE AS GOD ASKS  
"to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8)

MASS TIMES		
	St Raphael Church	Mater Dei Church
Tues		9:15am Mass
Wed		8:45am Rosary, Novena 9:15am Mass
Thurs	9:15am Mass	St Michael's Charismatic prayer group (see program)
Friday	7:30pm Adoration	9:15am Mass
Sat	4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	Mass only on 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Next mass is on 21st Oct.
Sunday	8:00am Mass	10:00am Mass

14th /15th Oct (3rd Sun/2nd Sat)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Earl Lappen	No Mass 2nd Sat	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Susi Fabbro	Henrietta		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Lappen Family		Jolly Jose Wendy E
21st /22nd Oct (4th Sun/3rd Sat)	St. Raphael's		Mater Dei	
	5:00pm	8.00am	6:15pm	10.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Greg Driver	Norman	Ray Low	Volunteer
<b>EMOHC</b>	Gail	Florence		
<b>Readers</b>	Volunteers	Rounds Family	Br Michael Nina M	Lucy Mistry Phil M

**Pray for good health of :** Mark Green, Rihanna Choi, Gisselle Clark (Oscuro), Joan Rounds, Graeme Dorahy, Anne Lo, Sunga Family, Adele Shehata, Anna Liza Torres Zapata.

**Pray for the deceased:** Meri Beljo, Mary Toohey, Briegie Robson, Monica O'Brien, Antonius Widjaja, Jeffrey Bishop, Fr Isidore, Holy Souls in purgatory.

**The Catholic Weekly**  
15 Oct 2023 PULPIT POINTS

- Palestinian Christians plead for peace amid Holy Land violence (1)
- Dan Schutte on the writing of "Here I am Lord" (10-15)
- Family reunited after six agonising years of separation (3)
- Monica Doumit on the Voice to Parliament (17)
- Dr Michael Walker on Pope Francis' Laudate Deum (21)
- Synod on Synodality continues in Rome (5)

ROSARY	
St Raphael's Church	Mater Dei Church
Every Monday at 7:30pm with Blessed Sacrament	Every Sunday 9:30am before the 10am mass

Mater Dei Home Rosary	
17-10-2023	Marguerite and Denis Derrig 32 Waratah St 7-00 PM
24-10-2023	Nives Care 33 Church Street Blakehurst 11-00 AM
All are welcome	

**The doorbell**  
A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boys efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell. Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

**ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**  
Every Thursday night **MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
6:30 pm Rosary, 7:00 pm Praise and Worship and Reconciliation, 7:30 pm Talk or Mass or Adoration

**Dates to Remember**

Oct 19 Evangelisation of Spirit Abraham George  
Oct 26 Understanding Different types of Suffering Ron Maldigri



**Hearts on Fire FEET ON THE MOVE**

**catholic MISSION** Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/timor

This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act and autonomy over their health and well-being.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina's, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

**Prayer for Jerusalem**

St Michael's Prayer Group invites you to join us in Adoration and prayer for peace in Israel.

"Pray for peace in Jerusalem" [Psalm 122:6]  
- by praying for peace in Jerusalem you bring blessings upon yourself.

We pray that God guides world leaders to make decisions that bring peace and stability to Israel and the Middle East.

We will be starting Adoration and prayer with a mass at Mater Dei Catholic Church, 1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst on Friday 20 October 2023.

The church gates and doors will be open all night for those who wish to join us.

7: 00pm: Starting with a mass on Friday 20.10.2023  
8:00pm- 7am: Adoration and prayer  
7:00am: Finishing with a Mass on Saturday 21.10.2023

Please put your name down on the list placed in the church entry if you are able to spend an hour or more so that we have some one in the church at all times. Any queries please contact Rose Polic on 0411 637 050.



Date	Mater Dei & St Raphael Parish Calendar 2023	Parish
14th Oct Sat	AEC Voting for Referendum 2023	SR Hall
16th Oct Mon	MD Pastoral Council Meeting	Mater Dei

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND		
TYPE	St Raphael's	Mater Dei
First	472.05	244.05
Second: loose	348.05	323.50
Envelopes	495.00	416.05

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Thomas Alukka  
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**MATER DEI CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
1008 King Georges Road, Blakehurst 2221, NSW

**ST. RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
84 George Street, South Hurstville  
Website: <https://www.materdeistraphael.org.au/>

**Parish Secretary:** Juliana Widjaja  
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm  
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